

SECRET
IMMEDIATE

FRP:
STAFF

✓ ~~SECRET~~ b3
OUTGOING

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

[REDACTED] b3

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~~SECRET NOFORN~~
BRIEF

TO: IMMEDIATE

ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

[REDACTED] b3

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST ASIA BRIEF
1987.

FOR 7 FEBRUARY

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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1. EGYPT: ELECTION LIKELY

NEXT WEEK'S REFERENDUM CALLED BY PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO DISSOLVE THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IS LIKELY TO HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE PASSING. IF IT PASSES, A NEW ELECTION MUST BE HELD BY 17 APRIL. ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE PRAISED THE MOVE BECAUSE IT COULD EXPAND THEIR REPRESENTATION, THEY ARE CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL STEPS TOWARD A MORE OPEN SYSTEM BEFORE THEY PARTICIPATE, [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] THE REFERENDUM IN PART MAY BE AN EFFORT TO PREEMPT A COURT DECISION INVALIDATING THE ELECTION LAW UNDER WHICH THE CURRENT ASSEMBLY WAS ELECTED. THE INITIATIVE GIVES OPPOSITION GROUPS GREATER LEVERAGE, AND MUBARAK MAY

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HAVE TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS IF HE IS TO ENSURE THEIR
PARTICIPATION AND ESCAPE A COURT CHALLENGE.

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b1

b1
b3

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b3

4. ISRAEL-LEBANON: NEW ATTACKS BY HIZBALLAH

HIZBALLAH'S RENEWED ATTACKS ON ISRAELI TROOPS AND THOSE OF TEL
AVIV'S CLIENT, THE ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON, IN ISRAEL'S SECURITY ZONE
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WILL STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF MILITARY LEADERS IN

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TEL AVIV WHO ARE PRESSING FOR RETALIATORY STRIKES IN THE BEKAA VALLEY. ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI PRESS, DOZENS OF PRO-IRANIAN, SHIA GUERRILLAS ATTACKED POSITIONS OF THE ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON YESTERDAY ABOUT 5 MILES (8 KILOMETERS) NORTH OF THE ISRAELI BORDER, KILLING ONE LEBANESE MILITIAMAN AND WOUNDING SIX OTHERS. THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED, AND EIGHT SHIA ATTACKERS WERE KILLED IN SUBSEQUENT FIREFIGHTS.

COMMENT: ISRAELI LEADERS MAY BE RELIEVED THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE LESS DAMAGING THAN THOSE IN DECEMBER, IN WHICH AT LEAST 15 MILITIAMEN WERE KILLED. ISRAEL HAS BEEN ABLE TO PURSUE AND KILL RETREATING HIZBALLAH ATTACKERS MORE EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE OF A RECENT INCREASE IN ROVING PATROLS BY ITS ELITE INFANTRY AND PARATROOP BRIGADES, BUT IT HAS DONE NO LASTING DAMAGE TO HIZBALLAH'S ABILITY TO RENEW ATTACKS. TEL AVIV'S WILLINGNESS TO ACT ON THE MILITARY'S STRONG URGE TO RETALIATE AGAINST HIZBALLAH MAY BE AFFECTED BY US NAVAL MANEUVERS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERANEAN, THE SEIZING OF FOUR PROFESSORS IN BEIRUT EARLIER THIS MONTH, AND CONCERN FOR TERRY WAITE'S SAFETY. THE MOST RECENT ATTACKS WILL NONETHELESS PUT ADDED PRESSURE ON ISRAELI POLITICAL LEADERS TO STRIKE AT HIZBALLAH BASES IN THE NORTHERN BEKAA VALLEY--PARTICULARLY THE SHAYKH ABDULLAH BARRACKS IN BA'ABAKK.

5. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

--LEBANESE DRUZE OFFICIAL CLAIMS TERRY WAITE HAS NOT BEEN SHOT OR PUT ON TRIAL . . . HIZBALLAH'S SPIRITUAL LEADER FADLALLAH'S ACCUSATION IN PRESS YESTERDAY THAT WAITE ON US MISSION COULD PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR PROLONGED DETENTION.

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